

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 CANBER 05697 160738Z

11

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20

USIA-15 ACDA-19 IO-14 AID-20 EB-11 COME-00 TRSE-00

OMB-01 IGA-02 DRC-01 /160 W
----- 114481

R 160715Z OCT 73

FM AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1846

INFO AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

S E C R E T CANBERRA 5697

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS:EAID, AS, LA, CB, AFIN

SUBJ: AUSTRALIAN SUPPORT OF FEOF AND ESF

REF: A) CANBERRA 5609 B) KUALA LUMPUR 4537 (NOTAL)

1. BEGIN SUMMARY: EMBASSY HAS RAISED WITH GOA ISSUE OF CONTINUED AUSTRALIAN PARTICIPATION IN FEOF AND ESF ON SEVERAL OCCASIONS IN RECENT WEEKS, AS REF A INDICATES. I BELIEVE WE HAVE CARRIED THIS MATTER AS FAR AS WE CAN AT THIS END, THOUGH WE WILL CONTINUE TO RAISE ISSUE AS OPPORTUNITY PRESENTS. END SUMMARY. ACTION REQUESTED:: THAT DEPARTMENT TAKE EARLY OPPORTUNITY OF REVIEWING FEOF AND ESF WITH AUSTRALIAN AMBASSADOR PLIMSOLL, TOGETHER WITH LAOTIAN AND CAMBODIAN INTERNAL POLITICAL SITUATION.

2. AS REF A INDICATES, EMBASSY HAS MADE REPEATED EFFORTS TO ENCOURAGE CONTINUED AUSTRALIAN PARTICIPATION IN FEOF AND ESF.

3. I DISCUSSED MATTER FURTHER WITH WALLER IN

SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 02 CANBER 05697 160738Z

MEETING ON ANOTHER SUBJECT OCT 12. WALLER SAID HE

SAW NO EVIDENCE OF KHMER INSURGENTS BEING WILLING TO NEGOTIATE WITH GKR AT THIS TIME, AS HE THOUGH THEY WERE WAITING UNTIL THEY COULD MOUNT A DRY SEASON OFFENSIVE NEXT YEAR TO TEST LON NOL GOVERNMENT. I SAID I AGREED WITH THAT ASSESSMENT BUT TOOK OPPORTUNITY TO POINT OUT THAT IF, MEANWHILE, COUNTRIES LIKE AUSTRALIA REFUSED TO CONTRIBUTE TO ESF, THIS MIGHT HAVE EFFECT OF CAUSING OTHER COUNTRIES TO SCALE DOWN OR STOP THEIR ESF CONTRIBUTIONS, AND IT WOULD BE MORE DIFFICULT FOR U.S. TO GET NECESSARY FUNDS FROM CONGRESS. WERE ALL THAT TO OCCUR, COMMUNIST SIDE WOULD BE EVEN LESS INCLINED TO NEGOTIATE. THEREFORE, I SAID THAT FAILURE TO CONTRIBUTE TO ESF COULD HAVE EFFECT OF MAKING CEASEFIRE IN CAMBODIA ALL THE MORE DIFFICULT TO ACHIEVE AND WOULD LEAVE THINGS DANGEROUSLY UNSETTLED IN INDOCHINA AS A WHOLE.

4. WALLER ACKNOWLEDGED VALIDITY OF THIS LINE OF ARGUMENT. HE REPEATED THAT CHANCES OF AUSTRALIA CONTRIBUTING TO FEOF WERE SOMEWHAT BETTER THAN TO ESF. I NOTED THAT IN RESPONSE TO AUSTRALIAN QUESTIONS WE WERE SEEKING FURTHER INFORMATION FROM WASHINGTON AND VIENTIANE WITH REGARD TO FEOF, PARTICULARLY WHETHER PATHET LAO LIKELY TO WANT TO CONTINUE WITH FEOF. I RECALLED THAT WOOLCOTT (FIRST ASSISTANT SEC FOR SOUTH ASIA DIVISION, DFA) HAD COMMENTED TO DCM THAT PRIME MINISTER WHITLAM FAVORED MULTILATERAL AID FOR ALL OF INDOCHINA. I ADDED THAT SO DO WE ALL, BUT IT IS IMPOSSIBLE FOR U.S. TO RENDER ASSISTANCE TO NORTH VIET-NAM WHILE LATTER IS MASSIVELY VIOLATING CEASEFIRE. IT WOULD BE IRONICAL TO HAVE NORTH VIET-NAM'S CONTINUED VIOLATIONS OF THE PARIS AGREEMENTS RESULT IN AUSTRALIA'S RELUCTANCE TO GIVE ADEQUATE SUPPORT TO ESF AND FEOF.

5. COMMENT: AUSTRALIANS HAVE STILL NOT DECIDED DEFINITELY WHETHER TO CONTINUE SUPPORT FOR FEOF AND/OR ESF. THEY CONTINUE TO TAKE WORST CASE OUTLOOK ON BOTH LAOS AND CAMBODIA (I.E., BOTH LIKELY IN LONG TERM TO COME UNDER COMMUNIST CONTROL) AND ASK US HOW WE CAN

SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 03 CANBER 05697 160738Z

PROVE THIS WILL NOT HAPPEN. THERE IS, OF COURSE, NO WAY TO PROVE THAT THE WORST WILL NOT HAPPEN IN THE FUTURE, OTHER THAN TO POINT OUT, AS WE HAVE DONE REPEATEDLY, THAT WORST CASE PROJECTIONS IN PAST IN INDO-CHINA HAVE FREQUENTLY BEEN WRONG. PROBLEM IS THAT CONTINUED INDICATIONS OF UNSETTLED CONDITIONS IN INDO-CHINA (MOST RECENTLY INCLUDING POSSIBLE UN ACCREDITATION OF GRUNK) AND THAILAND TEND TO CONFIRM GOA IN

ATTITUDE OF WAIT AND SEE, WHICH ALSO AFFECTS ATTITUDE
ON FEOF AND ESF.

6. IF DEPT. HAS NOT RECENTLY REVIEWED FEOF, ESF, AND
LAOTIAN AND CAMBODIAN MATTERS WITH SIR JAMES PLIMSOLL,
PERHAPS NOW IS BEST TIME TO DO SO, PARTICULARLY IN VIEW
OF LATEST INDO-CHINA/THAILAND DEVELOPMENTS. PLIMSOLL'S
REPORT OF HIS CONVERSATION WOULD GET TOP-LEVEL NOTICE
HERE AND I COULD FOLLOW UP AS REQUIRED. MEANWHILE I
WOULD APPRECIATE DEPARTMENT COMMENT UPON AUSTRALIAN
POSITION (PARA 4, REFTTEL) THAT IT IS NOT CLEAR THAT
BOTH PARTIES OF NEW COALITION GOVERNMENT IN LAOS
IN FACT DESIRE CONTRIBUTION OF FEOF. THIS POINT WILL
HAVE TO BE ADDRESSED.
GREEN

SECRET

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE, FINANCIAL CONTRIBUTIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 16 OCT 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: willialc
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973CANBER05697
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS GREEN
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: CANBERRA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19731030/aaaaavyl.tel
Line Count: 130
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: A) CANBERRA 5609 B) KUALA LUMPUR 453, 7 (NOTAL)
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: willialc
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 16 OCT 2001
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <16-Oct-2001 by kelleyw0>; APPROVED <26-Nov-2001 by willialc>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: AUSTRALIAN SUPPORT OF FEOF AND ESF
TAGS: EAID, AFIN, AS, LA, CB, FEOF, ESF
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005